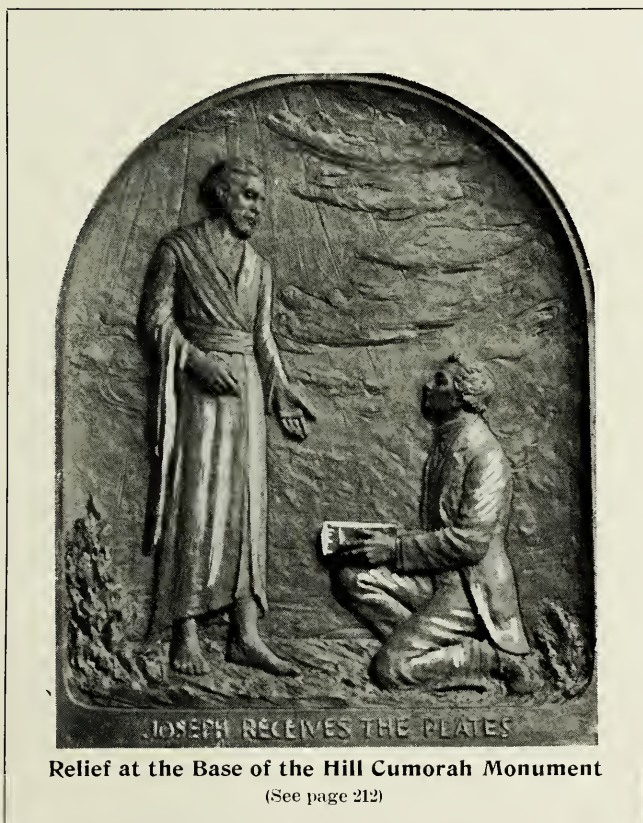


THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840



Relief at the Base of the Hill Cumorah Monument

(See page 212)

EARLY HISTORY OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS

STANDING on the steep slopes of the Wasatch mountains, a range of the Rockies, one sees in the springtime a veritable garden, a modern American city, with the Great Salt Lake set like a pearl in the western horizon. Rows of trees in new foliage mark the streets which intersect at right angles to form square blocks of ten acres each. Those streets are 132 feet wide, considered needless in the vast west of the middle nineteenth century when they were platted, but a boon for modern traffic which any large city would today welcome.

On the sandstone terrace of the foothills stands a small, unpretentious bit of a shaft with the dried skull of a plains buffalo cut in its face and the words, "This Is The Place." It was here that Brigham Young stopped his wagon on a desert July day in 1847, and made the gesture that grew into one of the outstanding cities of Western America. Salt Lake City stands today as a monument to the faith of the Latter-day Saints—the epilogue to an amazing story of the persecution, wanderings and struggles, and the final triumph of a band of believers, who built an empire in the desert while the world mocked.

It was in 1805 that Joseph Smith was born in the town of Sharon, in the State of Vermont. While yet a boy, in answer to prayer, he received a vision enjoining him to prepare himself to become instrumental in restoring the faith and power of the Gospel as it existed in the days when the Master was upon the earth. Before he was twenty years old he was divinely guided to the discovery of the tablets of gold on which were inscribed writings in "reformed Egyptian" characters. "By the gift and power of God" he was enabled to translate this record into what became the *Book of Mormon*, a companion scripture to the Bible in the eyes of all Latter-day Saints.

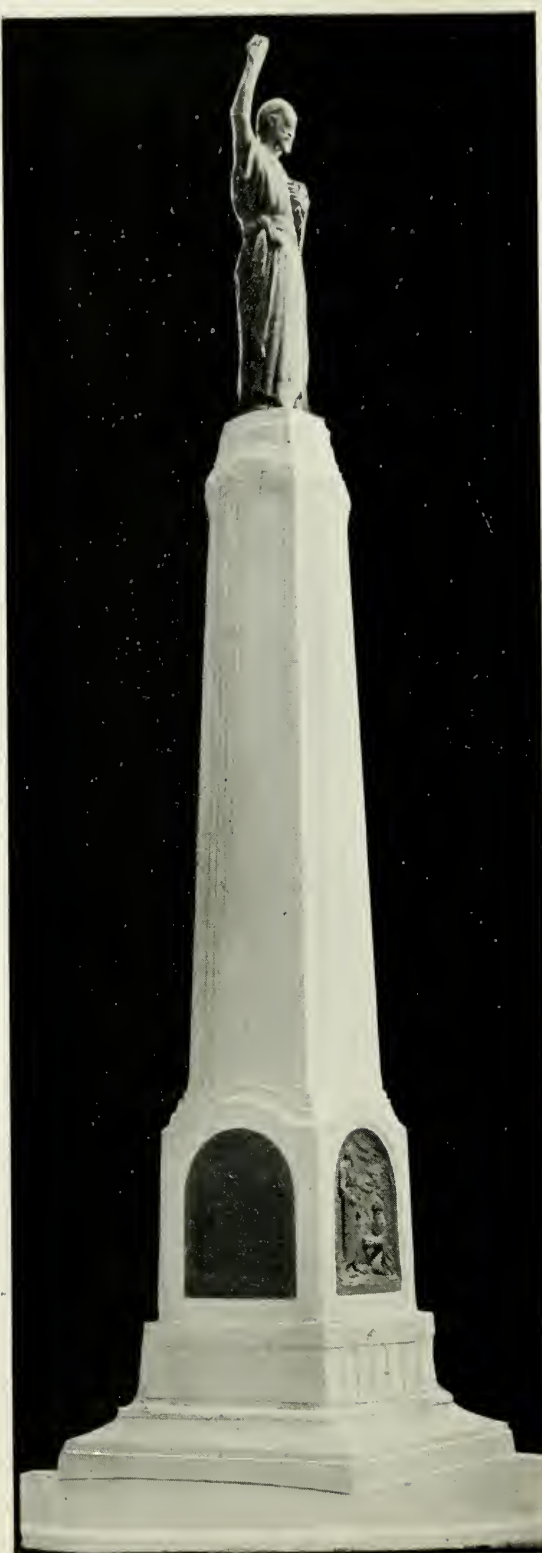
With six members the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was incorporated in the State of New York, on April 6th, 1830. Controversy over this new manifestation of Christianity culminated in such persecution that the small body of men and women who had gathered about the Prophet removed to Ohio. Persecution again dogged their steps—their leader was tarred and feathered and left for dead—and this time they sought a sanctuary in Missouri. Again they were persecuted and again they removed. Where the Mississippi river makes a broad bend marking the western boundary of Illinois they bought a tract of swamp land. This they drained, and here they built the largest city in the State of Illinois, when Chicago was only a village, passing its first law prohibiting pigs on the main street.

The most liberal charter ever granted an American city was



The Monument to Joseph Smith

This memorial stands in the shadow of the Great Temple in Salt Lake City. The inscription tells of the Prophet's vision of God; of his divinely inspired translation of the Book of Mormon plates, and of the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ in this dispensation to prepare the way for the glorious coming of Jesus Christ, to reign on earth.



PIERCING the sky high above the surrounding villages and wooded farms, a memorial, of which this reproduction is a model, is soon to be raised from the summit of the Hill Cumorah in New York where, on September 22nd, 1827, Joseph Smith received the Book of Mormon plates.

The striking figure atop the graceful column represents the Angel Moroni, who delivered the plates to the Boy-Prophet. He holds in his arm a replica of the sacred records.

Three plaques at the base of the monument depict historical events during the time in which the plates were in the Prophet's possession. A fourth bears Moroni's exhortation and promise to those who read the book, found in the 10th chapter of Moroni, 4th verse.

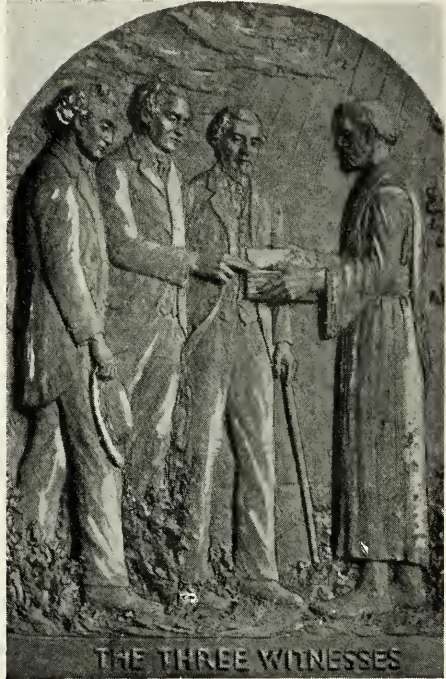
The monument is to be unveiled in late July in the presence of the First Presidency and General Authorities of the Church.

The Hill Cumorah Monument

Models of the plaques are pictured on pages 208, 213, 214.

given the inhabitants of Nauvoo by the legislature of which Abraham Lincoln was a member. They were given the right to establish a university and to maintain their own militia, the largest body of soldiers outside the United States army at the time.

Meanwhile, the efforts of missionaries who had gone to England in 1837 were showing fruits. Hundreds of British converts emigrated, and from their numbers came many of the stalwarts of the Church. But the peace of Nauvoo was not long-lived. Baiters from Missouri, using the subject of slavery, then a political issue in the United States, and fired by the old animus, stirred up persecution against the saints in Illinois. There were shootings, false charges, scares of every kind. The clouds lowered when Joseph Smith was arrested and held in duress by the Governor of the State. On June 27th, 1844, while in jail at Carthage, Illinois, he and his brother Hyrum were shot down in cold blood by a mob with painted faces.



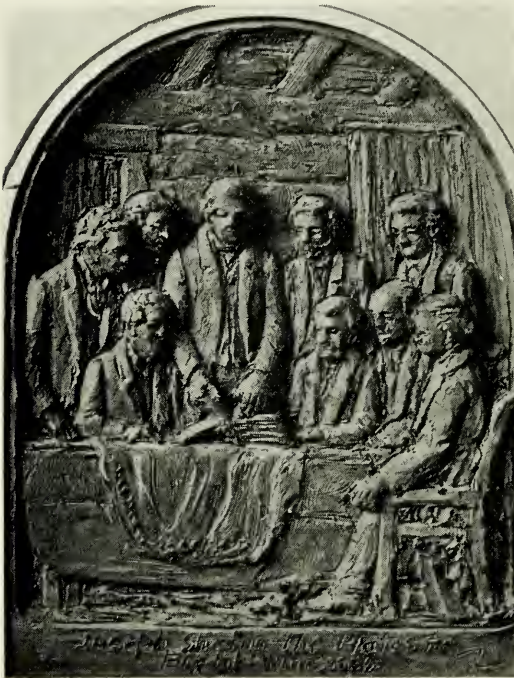
THE THREE WITNESSES

General persecution again grew apace. Again the saints were compelled to remove, and in the dead of the winter in 1864, leaving the homes and temples they built, they crossed the Mississippi river into Iowa. Privation and sorrow stalked through their camps. But through these dark days encouragement came with the memory of a prophecy which foretold that they would go to the Rocky Mountains and become a "mighty people."

The spring of 1847 found a vanguard company ready to start for the West. For more than a thousand miles, across the wind-swept plains of what is now the State of Nebraska, then through the rutted lower hills of the Wyoming country, over the high passes of the Rocky Mountains and on to the valley of the Great Salt Lake moved their file of ox-drawn wagons. Here, a reward for their long journeyings, was a basin of parched land surrounded by a salt sea. But they sang songs of thanksgiving, and for the first time Anglo-Saxons turned waters to irrigation.

Five thousand acres were cleared of sagebush and planted to grain by the following spring.

TODAY the visitor to Salt Lake City views with interest a memorial to seagulls. It is the only monument to a bird in the world. Surmounting a tall shaft of granite is the figure of a sea-



gull in flight. Behind this lies the story of 1848, when great hordes of crickets swept down upon the new crops planted in the valley. Efforts to destroy them were in vain. Starvation faced the entire colony, and all hope had fled when from out of the lake to the west came great numbers of gulls. The birds swooped down on the crickets and devoured them until the fields were cleansed of the pests. The saints thanked their God, and their children have erected this memorial in grateful remembrance.

Today the fast transcontinental ex-

presses of the Union Pacific Railway follow the route of the old Mormon trail. And where once, less than a hundred years ago, only a desert vista greeted the eye, the traveller of today sees a scientifically platted city of wide streets, open spaces and parks, which add beauty to the buildings which they surround, of fine monuments, of buildings of unique architecture. Noteworthy are the Temple and the great Tabernacle. The Latter-day Saints have been home-building people who have taught the virtues of good citizenship and high standards of living. The visitor is impressed with the result.

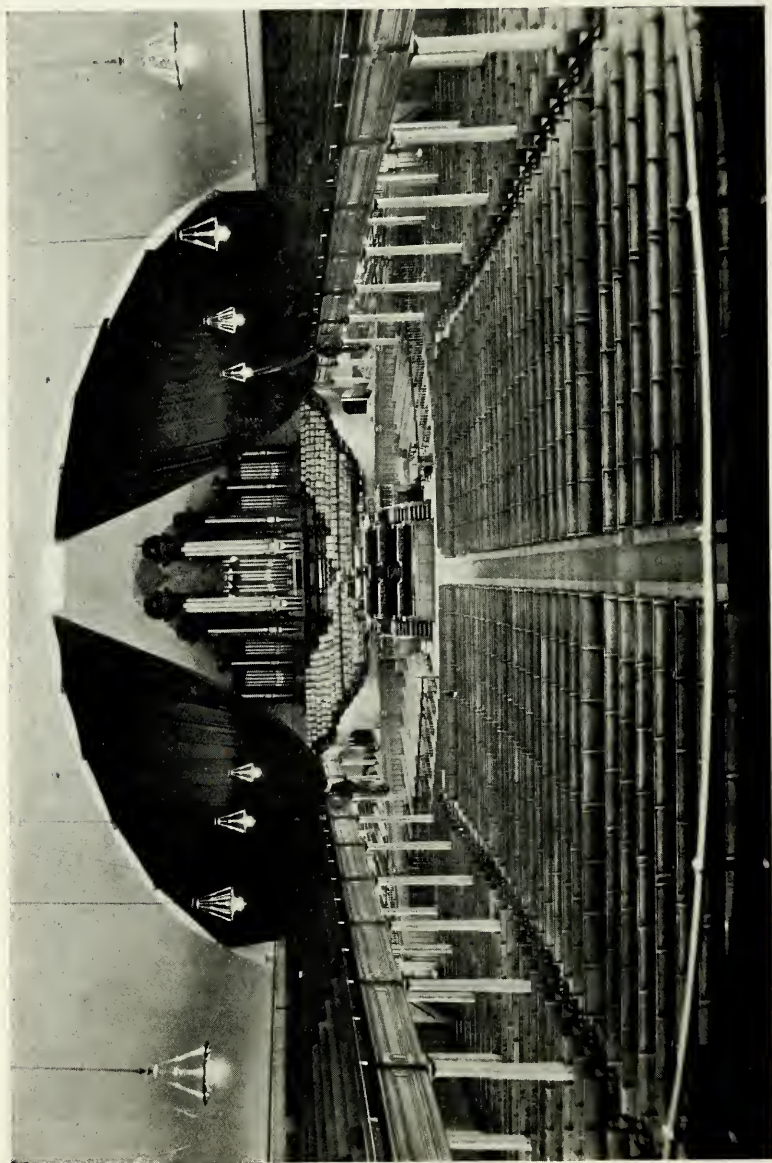
But all of the Latter-day Saints are not in Salt Lake City. There are seventy-nine branches of the Church in the British Isles, with headquarters at 5 Gordon Square, London, W. C. 1. They are ever willing and ready to answer any queries concerning their history and beliefs,



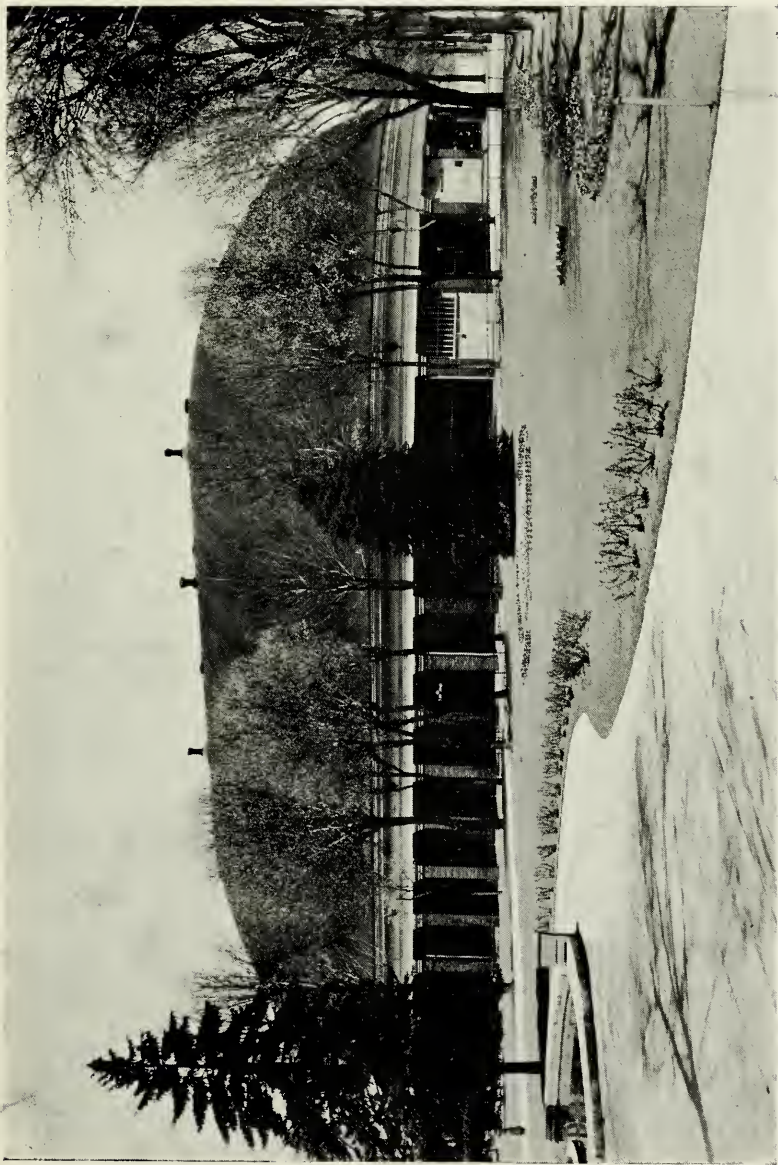
The Seagull Monument

This memorial to a bird was "erected in grateful remembrance of the mercy of God to the Mormon Pioneers."

Placques at its base depict the Pioneers' arrival and encampment in Salt Lake valley; despair, hope, and the arrival of the gulls; and the harvest. The spires of the Temple are seen in the background.



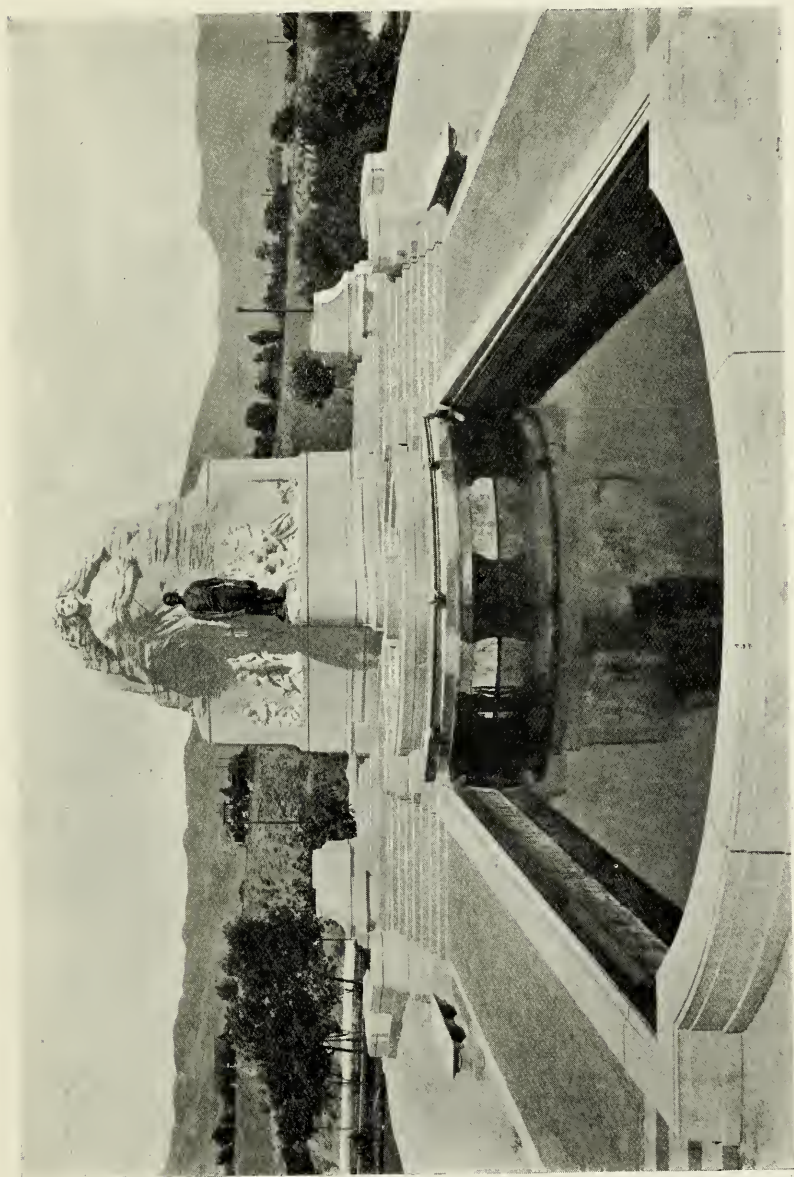
The Interior of the Tabernacle at Salt Lake City



The Exterior of the Great Mormon Tabernacle



The Salt Lake City Temple at Night



The Mormon Battalion Monument

(See page 222)

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1935

EDITORIAL

"THE MORNING BREAKS, THE SHADOWS FLEE"

THIS title is the theme of the April number of the *Improvement Era*, a monthly magazine published as the organ of the Mutual Improvement Associations of the Church. It is also the first line of the first hymn in the Latter-day Saints' hymn book, the first edition of which was printed in Manchester, in 1840, under the personal supervision of a committee consisting of Apostles Brigham Young, Parley P. Pratt and John Taylor. The first two stanzas of this prophetic hymn, written by Parley P. Pratt, are as follows:

The morning breaks, the shadows flee :
Lo ! Zion's standard is unfurled.
The dawning of a brighter day
Majestic rises on the world.

The clouds of error disappear
Before the rays of truth divine :
The glory, bursting from afar,
Wide o'er the nations soon will shine.

The prophecy uttered in these poetic words was divinely inspired, for it is certainly in course of fulfillment. This will be conclusively demonstrated to anyone who will read with an open mind the story of the development and progress of the Church as it is told in the April number of the *Era*. Notwithstanding the many dark and terrible days through which the Church has passed since the poem was written in the early period of the Church there has, in general, been a steady advancement of its cause as the *Era* story depicts.

This is the centennial year in the Church of the organization of the Council of the Twelve Apostles and the First Quorum and Council of Seventy. The organization of these Councils was a very important advance in the development of the government and proselyting activities of the Church, making a still further unfurlment of Zion's standard.

More clouds of error and superstition have disappeared during the past one hundred years, probably, than in all the previous years of recorded human history. To an extent, the Spirit of God has been poured out "upon all flesh" as prophesied by Joel (Joel 2: 28). This has resulted in the phenomenal advances in the realms of education, science, and invention. The scientific achievements of man during the century are almost God-like in their extent and brilliance. The telegraph, the dynamo, the telephone, the electric light, the polyphase motor, the gas engine, moving and talking pictures, the aeroplane, the radio and television, etc., all testify that intelligence—a characteristic of the Spirit of God—has been extremely active during the century. Moreover, many erroneous theological beliefs and superstitions have disappeared. The truths proclaimed by

modern divine revelation have been increasingly enlightening the minds of men.

The Church of God, begun anew by the Prophet Joseph Smith, stands out today respected and admired by more people and to a greater extent than ever before. Its influence is felt not only in America but is growing in Europe and elsewhere. As men learn the truth about the Church and its people their prejudice turns to respect. The 105th annual conference that will close in the great Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 7th, will attract attention from all over America. Its services will be broadcast by the powerful KSL radio station and, at times, may be heard as far away as Mexico, Canada and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific. There will go out from this conference messages that will cheer three-quarters of a million members and many thousands of friends. The influence of Mormonism is growing.

"The glory, bursting from afar,
Wide o'er the nations soon will shine."

The pictures in this number of the *Star*, reprinted from the London *Monthly Pictorial*, will thrill all lovers of Zion. Looking into the Tabernacle and at the great organ they will easily be able to visualize the proceedings of the conference soon to be held there. At 9: 30, Mountain Time, on Sunday morning, April 7th, the organ and the choir will render a programme during an hour that may be heard all over America, for it will be on a national hook-up of a score of powerful stations, constituting the Columbia Broadcasting System. This national musical broadcast from the Tabernacle is a weekly event that has been taking place during recent years. The result is that the Tabernacle is one of the best-known centres of broadcast sacred music in America.

All of this is cheering, of course, to all true friends of the Church the world over. The respect shown to the Church in America is indicative of the respect that, in a measure, will be shown to it in Britain sooner or later. How soon will depend upon the faithfulness and energy of the saints who live here.—JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

A PICTORIAL ISSUE

ALTHOUGH it is an unusual departure for the *Star* to devote as much space to illustrations as has been given in this issue, we believe that such a departure will be welcomed by our readers in this instance.

This week's article on the history of the Church and the accompanying pictures appeared in the *Monthly Pictorial* magazine for February. The issue, however, was sold out before many who wanted copies could procure them. Among the pictures are several of historical interest that have not appeared before in the *Star*, and the article typifies the better feeling and understanding that the Press is manifesting toward the Church in Britain, one of the many indications that the Church is beginning to receive the attention and respect in Britain that is its just due. For these reasons we have felt that reprinting the articles and pictures would be very much worth while.

WHAT IS A GENERAL CONFERENCE LIKE?

WHAT is a general conference like, where saints from a hundred different cities gather for instruction, expression, inspiration, and the fellowship of Gospel association? We in the British mission often wonder, and often our wondering becomes conjecture. We have our district conferences, our branch conferences, our special meetings—all happy times of remission. Are general conference like these? Perhaps. But still we sometimes feel as though we have not quite experienced the ultimate in Church gatherings, where one may meet new friends who are friends immediately because of the great common bond that draws them to us, where we may press their hands and look into their faces, and share with them the thrill of mutual understanding and common purpose. Our branches are small and intimate. Even our district membership is sometimes small. Oh for the adventure and thrill of a great gathering where we can unite our hearts in worship and raise our voices in the songs of Zion in a congregation many hundreds strong!

Yes, *what is a general conference like?*

In a Latter-day Saint chapel on Whit Sunday upwards of five hundred saints will discover the deep thrill of such a gathering. The songs of Zion will stir them as never before. From the inspiration of that day will come a new strength and vision that will be a source of constant blessing to them in their efforts to serve the Lord in His latter-day cause.

But this is not all. The Sunday gathering will be just one event of a programme that will extend over three never-to-be-forgotten days: Leadership institutes, exhibits of Gleaner and Bee-Hive work, mission-wide competitions in drama, forensics, music, athletics—and above all—friendships, new people, the thrill of Gospel companionship.

Do you want to know what a general conference and all that goes with it is like? Then Whitsuntide is your opportunity. The portent of a century of such gatherings throughout the Church gives promise that you will not be disappointed. The thrill of a glorious new experience awaits you at Kidderminster.
—R. S. B.

THE MORMON BATTALION MONUMENT

(See illustration, page 219)

IN striking contrast to the conditions under which he blazed a trail over half a continent, the lank figure of the Mormon Battalion Man stands reflected in a pool of still water. His bronze form is flanked by scenes of his sufferings carved in granite, and rising above his bared head is a representation of the "Spirit of the West." About him are wide lawns as smooth as velvet and before him is a thriving city of a happy people. How different from the burning desert wastes over which he walked, ill-clad and undernourished, on the longest march of infantry in military history to write another heroic chapter in the history of Mormonism. He did it for an ideal. Lest we forget too easily the loyalty and devotion he typified the people of Utah have erected this imposing monument on the State Capitol grounds at a cost of £40,000.

ULSTER DISTRICT CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT JOSEPH J. CANNON was the principal speaker at the conference of the Ulster district, held in Donegall Street, Belfast, March 24th. The political, social and economic unrest in the world today, he told the audience in the evening session, are among the many signs that point to the long-heralded return of Christ to rule personally upon the earth. Those who can read the signs of the times with wisdom will prepare for this glorious event. The Restored Church of Christ has the one message that will answer the crying need of these troubled times, he said. He looked forward to the day when people would come from all over Ulster to gatherings such as this to hear the message of the Restored Gospel.

The conference sessions were commenced with a testimony meeting in which Brothers William Belshaw, Joseph W. Darling, Joseph Ditty, and Robert Collins spoke.

In the afternoon, Elder Conway A. Ashton, British mission Sunday School superintendent, conducted

a Sunday School convention. Evelyn Dodds, Nan Bannatyne, and Joan Taggart appeared on the programme. This was followed by a Relief Society programme under the direction of Sister Ramona W. Cannon. She was assisted by Misses Annie Carson and Jean Wartnaby, and Sisters Agnes Gaskin, Ruby Gillen and Annie McCurdy. Special officers' and teachers' meetings for these organizations were conducted during the day.

Speakers in the evening session, in addition to President Cannon, were Elders John Ridge Hicks, John L. Van Orman, and William A. DeHart, and Sister Ramona W. Cannon.

On the evening preceding the conference, Elder Conway A. Ashton delivered an illustrated lecture on the life of Joseph Smith.

Travelling missionaries in the Ulster district included President William A. DeHart, and Elders John Ridge Hicks, John L. Van Orman, David Y. Rogers, and Victor L. Bingham.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Doings in the Districts: Birmingham—The first game of inter-team softball competition in the Kidderminster M Men Athletic club was played at Aggborough field Saturday, March 9th, with "B" team defeating the "A" players, 26 to 8. A large crowd watched the game.

The Boy Scouts of the Kidderminster branch enjoyed a hike to Hobblerly valley Saturday, March 2nd. Following games and Scout activities directed by Scoutmaster Dennis Collins and Elder Ira A. Newsome, refreshments were served.

A Boy Scout troop has been formed in the Handsworth branch with Brothers Frank Bailey and Arthur Makin acting as Scoutmasters. A full patrol was present at the night of organization.

Elders Fielding S. Barlow and Eargle C. Harnsen addressed the Kidderminster "Toc H" club Monday, March 11th, on "The Revelation to Joseph Smith and the Early History of the Mormons." Following the talks, the time was turned over to questions. The elders were given an invitation to return again and asked to give talks at the Blakesdown branch of the club.

Bristol—The Plymouth branch conference on March 3rd was directed by Branch President Walter Shortle. A feature on the programme was the retelling of "Strange Stories from the Bible," by branch members.

"I have sailed the seven seas, and never crowned a prettier queen." With this declaration, Elder Gordon K. Ashley completed

the coronation ceremony—replete with attendants, a bejeweled and pillowed crown, a throne and the royal pathway strewn with coloured M's, and I's and A's—which made Sister Lucy Battle the queen of the first Bristol Gold and Green ball. Sister Battle was accorded this honour after a spirited contest that was the feature of this gala social evening of March 2nd. Sisters Maggie Mavin, Kathleen Rogers, and Leah Cooke were the other contestants for regal honour.

The scene of the party was Boot's cafe ballroom in Bristol, which was colourfully decorated for the occasion. The gold and green colour scheme was predominant in the cafe as well, where refreshments were served during the intermission. Excellent dance music was furnished by the Georgian orchestra. Mr. George acted as M. C.

There were 120 guests, most of whom were wearing green and gold M. I. A. badges. A pressman from the *Evening World* was on hand to take a picture of the Queen and her attendants, with the dancers in the background.

In charge of the arrangements for the affair was Elder Gordon K. Ashley. He was assisted by Bristol M. I. A. officers, Sisters Audrey and Muriel Beams, and Lucy Battle planned the decorations.

Liverpool—A baptismal service was held at the Argyle Street Baths, Birkenhead, Friday, March 1, 1935. Ernest George Currin, William

Arthur Halls, Jr., and Joseph McWilliam were baptized by Elder Stephen R. Murdock.

Saturday, March 2nd, under the direction of the district M. I. A. supervisor, Horace Heyes, were staged the finals of the district play contest. Before an audience of sixty-five saints and friends the Wigan players, by their superior performance, captured the honours as well as the beautiful banner for their division and branch. Their competitors were players from Burnley and Liverpool. This is the last of a series of play contests in which seven out of the eight branches in the district have participated. A great deal of enthusiasm was created throughout the district over the outcome of these competitions.

The Liverpool district branch conferences commenced Sunday, March 3rd, in the Accrington branch. The morning session was devoted entirely to the auxiliary departments under the supervision of Elder William F. Homer. The evening session centered around the second and thirteenth Articles of Faith. President Joseph Fielding Smith, Jr., was the principal speaker.

Personal—Sister Winnie Stanley and Brother John Craig, both of the Manchester branch, wish to announce their engagement to their friends and acquaintances in the British mission.

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